

In the Claims:

Claims 1-10: cancelled

11. (Withdrawn) The cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the cutting edges are hardened.

12. (Withdrawn) The cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the cutting structure is metal.

13. (Withdrawn) The cutting tool according to claim 10, wherein the metal is steel.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for cutting belts which comprises utilizing the cutting tool of claim 1.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A cutting tool for belts comprising:

~~At least three cutting edges, wherein at least two of the three cutting edges are adjacent and share a common endpoint, and~~

a zigzag cutting structure formed of a at least three plurality of cutting plates, each cutting plate having a cutting edge, said cutting plates each having a front side and a back side and an approximately rectangular cross-section and the cutting edges are cross cutters, extending between diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular cross-section, and at least two of the cutting edges share a common endpoint.

~~wherein one of the at least three cutting edges extends diagonally between the front and back sides of a respective cutting plate.~~

Claims 16-17: cancelled.

Claim 18: (Previously Presented): The cutting tool of claim 15, wherein each cutting edge is formed by an intersection of two asymmetrical cutting edge surfaces.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The cutting tool according to claim 18, wherein each cutting plate has an axis of rotation perpendicular to and centrally located in the rectangular cross section of the cutting plate, and the cutting edge surfaces ~~formed on respective sides of a respective cutting edge of a first and second cutting plate~~ are arranged axially symmetrical to one another so that any point on one cutting edge surface has a respective symmetrical point on the other cutting edge surface about said axis symmetrically.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The cutting tool according to claim 15, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ adjacent cutting plates ~~or the cutting edges~~ are arranged mirror-symmetrical to one another.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The cutting tool according to claim 15 ~~20~~, wherein ~~at least one of the cutting plates or the~~ adjacent cutting edges are arranged mirror symmetrical to one another.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The cutting tool according to claim 15, wherein the cutting structure is formed by two types of cutting plates arranged alternately and at a specific opening angle to each other.

Claim 23: cancelled.